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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (17 Feb 70) FOR OT UT 694239

24 February 1970

**SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st Infantry
Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech), Period Ending 31 October
1969 (U)**

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

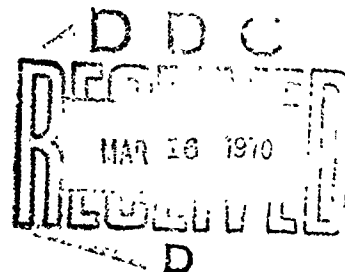
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HQ, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech)
APO San Francisco 96477

AVBL-C

23 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

SEE DISTRIBUTION:

1. (C) SECTION I - OPERATIONS: Significant Activities

a. Mission:

1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) (Inclosure 1 Task Organization) in cooperation and coordination with ARVN and GVN Territorial and Regional Forces conducted search and clear, reconnaissance in force and pacification operations within assigned area of operations (AO).

b. Operations:

(1) During the period 1 Aug - 22 Oct 69, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) was OPCON to 3d Marine Division (Inclosure 2, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) AO 1 Aug - 22 Oct 69). During the period 22 - 31 Oct 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) operated as a separate Brigade under XXIV Corps with an expanded AO (Inclosure 3, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) AO 22 - 31 Oct 69).

(2) During the reporting period, in addition to the major operations listed in paragraphs (a) through (d) below, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) continued to concentrate on small unit search and clear, reconnaissance in force, saturation night ambushes, and patrols within the Brigade AO. Emphasis was placed on destruction of enemy forces, rice and food denial, denying enemy access to the populated areas and interdiction of his supply and infiltration routes.

(3) The following major operations were conducted or were participated in by elements of 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) during the period 1 Aug - 31 Oct 69:

(a) Operation Iroquois Grove (15 June - 23 Sep 69)

Operation Iroquois Grove was a 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) operation and included all operations conducted by the Brigade; other than those conducted by elements of the Brigade that were placed OPCON to specific units of the 3d Marine Division. The operation consisted of search

FOR OT UT
694239

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23 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), Period Ending 31 October 1969, MCS CSFOR-05 (R2)

and clear, reconnaissance in force, pacification, rice and food denial operations, saturation patrols, and night ambushes throughout the Brigade AO. Results of Operation Iroquois Grove were:

FRIENDLY			ENEMY				
KIA	WIA	MIA	KIA	PW	CHIEU HOI	IWC	CSWC
18	147	0	135	9	4	40	22

(b) Operation Idaho Canyon (26 July - 15 Aug 69)

Operation Idaho Canyon was a 3d Marine Division operation conducted in Northwest Central Quang Tri Province in an area known as Leatherneck Square. The area is bounded on the north by the DMZ, the south by the Khe Chua River, on the east by the 18 North-South grid line and on the west by a North-South line through Dong Ha Mountain. From 28 July to 15 Aug 69 TF 1-11 Inf was placed OPCON to 3d Regiment, 3d Marine Division to participate in this operation. The mission of TF 1-11 was to destroy enemy forces, supplies and material and to interdict enemy supply lines and routes of infiltration from the DMZ into their AO. Results of TF 1-11 Inf's participation in Operation Idaho Canyon were:

FRIENDLY			ENEMY				
KIA	WIA	MIA	KIA	PW	CHIEU HOI	IWC	CSWC
11	72	0	123	0	2	35	17

(c) Unnamed Operation (25 Sep - 31 Oct 69)

During the period 25 Sep 69 (the termination date of Operation Iroquois Grove) and 22 Oct 69 (the beginning of the current 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) operation - Fulton Square) the Brigade conducted a series of search and clear, reconnaissance in force, pacification and rice denial operations which were not categorized under a named operation. In addition, the Brigade conducted defensive operations to cover the withdrawal of the 3d Marine Division which was phasing out offensive operations and staging for redeployment. Results of operations during this period were:

FRIENDLY			ENEMY				
KIA	WIA	MIA	KIA	PW	CHIEU HOI	IWC	CSWC
13	120	0	75	5	2	26	21

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div
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(d) Operation Fulton Square (22 Oct - 31 Oct 69)

Operation Fulton Square is the first operation this HQs has conducted in RVN as a separate brigade. The operation consists of search and clear, reconnaissance in force, pacification, rice and food denial operations, saturation patrols, and night ambushes in the Brigade AO. A synopsis of Operation Fulton Square will be included in the operational report lessons learned for the period ending 31 Jan 69.

(4) Civic Action:

(a) During the reporting period, Brigade civic action operations were directed towards the support of the GVN Accelerated Pacification Program at village and hamlet level, and assistance in the implementation of the Revolutionary Development Program. Specific civic action activities of the Brigade were as listed below:

1 Public Health:

- a. Persons receiving medical treatment - 8,203
- b. Civilians evacuated due to sickness - 106
- c. Immunizations - 83
- d. Medical aides, health workers or nurses trained - 19

2 Education:

- a. English textbooks were given to high school students and volunteer teachers from the Brigade began advanced English classes for 60 students of Truong Trung Ho Nguyen-Hoang High School in Quang Tri City.
- b. At the beginning of the new school year 695 school kits and 221 school kit refills were distributed to students in the AO.
- c. Tuition assistance under the General Walt Scholarship Program was extended to 33 students, amounting to 24,850 \$VN each month.

3 Agricultural Services:

- a. To assist newly settled refugees in quickly reclaiming the use of their land the Brigade utilized organic engineer equipment to plow 550 acres of rice fields in Hai Lang District and 35 acres in Trieu Phong District.
- b. The Brigade donated scrap lumber, sheet tin and 100,000 \$VN for purchase of ducklings, fertilizer and seeds to the families of the Chieu Hoi Village of Quang Tri Province for use in a long range agricultural development project.

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4 Resettlement: Using organic vehicles of the Brigade 2500 civilians were moved from refugee centers to the resettlement hamlets of An Trach (YD 345625) and Trieu Son (YD 403574), Trieu Phong District.

5 Construction and Repair:

a. Cement and gravel were supplied to villagers of Phu Long (YD 345445) and An Luu (YD 385588) hamlets for four wells dug by the villagers.

b. A bridge across the Song-O Giang River (YD 474422) was completed, allowing foot traffic to traverse the water barrier.

c. A dry span bridge was assembled and set up by the Bde engineers over a wash area in Hai Long District in the vicinity of YD 477545.

d. Repairs to a school and dispensary at Bo Ban Hamlet (YD 334629) were completed with the material support of the brigade and the self-help labor of the people.

e. Construction of a hamlet meeting house/dispensary building for the community of Phu Long Hamlet (YD 345445) was completed in September. Brigade support included scrap lumber, tin roofing and cement.

6 Disaster Relief:

a. A devastating fire in Dien Troung Hamlet (YD 447465) left seventy-five families homeless. Food and clothing were distributed. In addition Brigade personnel donated 16,260 \$VN to purchase chicks for the victims of the fire.

b. After severe storms swept the province on 2 September, food and clothing were distributed from relief points and minor road and bridge repairs were made at several locations in the province.

7 Commodities Distributed During the Reporting Period:

a. Food (lbs) - 6,391

b. Clothing (lbs) - 595

c. Soap (lbs) - 1,714

d. Lumber (bd ft) - 1,000 (approx)

8 Orphanages:

a. 75th Support Bn provided food, clothing and medical supplies to orphans of Thanh Gia, Tri Tuu, Cuu Tee, and U Thieu orphanages.

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23 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div
(Mech), Period Ending 31 October 1969, RGS CSFOR-65 (R2)

The unit transported orphans to the local beaches, where the children enjoyed swimming and refreshments.

b. On Vietnamese Children's Day (26 Sep 69), children at four orphanages in Quang Tri City were provided refreshments, candy, toys and clothing.

(5) Psychological Operations (PSYOPS):

During the reporting period PSYOPS were conducted throughout the Brigade AO. Aerial leaflet drops and aerial broadcasts were conducted by elements of the 7th PSYOPS Battalion. Other printed PSYOP materials were distributed by MEDCAP teams and ground PSYOP teams. The basic themes of the PSYOPS effort were directed at NVA, VC, and VCI elements within the Brigade AO. Other themes were pro-GVN which elicited civilian populace support of GVN Revolutionary Development Programs. PSYOPS statistics were as follows:

- (a) Leaflets air dropped: 13,000,000
- (b) Aerial broadcast missions: 152
- (c) Leaflets hand disseminated: 7,200
- (d) GVN newspapers disseminated: 10,500

2. (C) SECTION II - Lessons Learned: Commanders' Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

a. Personnel: None

b. Intelligence:

(1) Observation: The aerial observer section of the 517 MI Detachment is currently using a 70 mm Camera (Graflex, General Precision, Model X) in their photographic intelligence collection efforts. This camera which is on loan from 3d Marine Division is being used in lieu of the 35 mm Camera authorized by the unit MTOE.

(2) Evaluation: The 70 mm camera produces photos of larger size and better quality than the authorized 35 mm camera. The photo interpreters are able to obtain more information from these better quality photos.

(3) Recommendation: That the 70 mm camera be made a standard item of issue for the 517 MI Detachment in lieu of the 35 mm camera currently authorized. The 517th MI Detachment is preparing an MTOE change to affect this change of authorized photographic equipment. The MTOE change will be forwarded through channels in the near future.

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23 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div
(Mech), Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

c. Operations:

High Angle Illumination Fires.

(1) Observation: Situations have occurred in which a maneuver element requested an illumination mission which could not be fired because the cannister impact grid could not be cleared.

(2) Evaluation: In cases where illumination missions cannot be fired because of the problem of clearing the cannister impact grid a solution is to use high angle fire techniques, thereby moving the cannister impact grid closer to the target grid. An appropriate powder charge and a quadrant of approximately 1200 mils will produce a high angle trajectory that will bring the target and cannister grids closer together, thus minimizing the possibility of friendly casualties from the falling cannister. Current 155 mm firing tables do not provide data for high angle illumination, however; data can be obtained by using FADAC for high angle HE if compensation is made for the difference in projectile weights. Fuze setting is obtained by subtracting three or four seconds from the time of flight. Test firings have shown this technique to be effective.

(3) Recommendation: That tables be published for 155 mm high angle illumination missions.

d. Organization: None

e. Training: None

f. Logistics:

Mine Damage Kits for Combat Tracked Vehicles.

(1) Observation. Mine damage has been the major cause of combat tracked vehicle deadline in this Brigade. The average down time for a deadlined tracked vehicle has been seven days.

(2) Evaluation. The primary cause for the lengthy down time for deadlined tracked vehicles is the lead time required to requisition and obtain the necessary repair parts. This is especially critical when a series of mine incidents occur in a short period of time.

(3) Recommendation. Recommend that standardized repair parts kits be assembled and packaged for rapid delivery to units operating in areas where mine incidents frequently occur. The composition of the kits will be determined by experience factors gained by unit operations in their assigned AO. Experience in combat track vehicle operations in this Brigade AO shows that the most frequent damage caused by mines is to the suspension system. Therefore, the kits made up for this Brigade will

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AVII-GCT (23 Nov 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), for the Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

DA, Headquarters, XXIV Corps, APO SF 96308 18 DEC 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, APO SF 96375


1. (U) The Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) has been reviewed at HQ, XXIV Corps and is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.

2. (C) Subject to the following comments, this headquarters concurs with the report.

a. Reference item concerning use of the 70mm Camera, Section II, para 2b, page 5. The large format of 70mm film does permit a greater field of view, making interpretation, plotting, and enlargement easier. The picture quality in terms of resolution and grain should be the same for both cameras or should favor the 35mm format slightly. Long focus lenses for 35mm cameras generally are faster than telephoto lens for large cameras. The faster lens permits faster shutter speeds to avoid image motion and to permit photography under unfavorable light conditions. The 70mm camera is somewhat more difficult to handle in an aircraft and some 70mm cameras, including the Graflex, require separate actions to advance the film and cock the shutter. The large film capacity of the 35mm camera could be an advantage. Recommend additional evaluation prior to MTOE change and that the 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div be issued a 70mm camera for evaluation and report.

b. Reference item concerning High Angle Illumination Fires, Section II, para 2c, page 6. Concur. Further recommend that this procedure be forwarded to the US Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma for additional evaluation and if appropriate, publish a high angle illumination firing table for the 105mm and 155mm howitzers.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


R. D. PECCO
MAJ, AGO
ASST AG

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AVII-GGT (23 Nov 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf
Div (Mech), for the Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65
(R2)(U)

DA, Headquarters, XXIV Corps, APO SF 96308 18 DEC 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, APO SF 96375


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b. Reference item concerning High Angle Illumination Fires, Section II, para 2c, page 6. Concur. Further recommend that this procedure be forwarded to the US Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma for additional evaluation and if appropriate, publish a high angle illumination firing table for the 105mm and 155mm howitzers.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


R. D. PECCO
MAJ, AGC
ASST AG

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AVHGC-DST (23 Nov 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech),
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RGS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 21 JAN 70

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1969 from Headquarters, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) and comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. (C) Comments follow:

a. (C) Reference item concerning "Intelligence", page 5, paragraph 2b and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2a; nonconcur. The 70mm combat camera is no longer an authorized item of issue. It has been replaced by the Graflex XL-75, FSN 6720-938-1241 which includes the following items:

Lenses - 47mm, 80mm, 100mm, 180mm.

Roll Backs - 120, 220, and 70mm.

~~2x3 1/2~~ Backs - film pack and polaroid backs.

Sports Finders.

Filters.

Case.

The Graflex XL-75 would be far superior to the 35mm camera for aerial photography. Recommend the unit evaluate the Graflex XL-75 for this type work.

b. (C) Reference item concerning "High Angle Illumination Fires", page 6, paragraph 2c and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2b: Concur with XXIV Corps recommendation that the suggested procedure be further evaluated by the USA Field Artillery School and, if appropriate, a high angle illumination firing table be published for the 105mm and 155mm Howitzers.

c. (U) Reference item concerning "Mine Damage Kits for Combat Vehicles", page 6, paragraph 2f; nonconcur. The establishment of special kits to meet local requirements based on the operational environment is not considered practical. Proper utilization of the existing supply system, whereby demands and anticipated unusual requirements are the basis for requisitioning, can and has proven satisfactory when proper command emphasis is placed on

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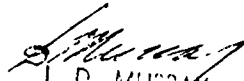
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AVRGC-DWT (23 Nov 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech),
Period Ending 31 October 1969, R03 CEFOR-65 (R2) (U)

making the system work. Kits made up at unit level can be utilized if the local commander feels that a particular operation warrants it; however, accountability and replenishment of parts used must be properly processed to insure that the normal flow of supplies is maintained.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


L. D. MURRAY
CPT, AGC
Assistant /

Gy Furn:
1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech)
XXIV Corps

GPOP-DT (23 Nov 69) 3d Ind (U)


SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech)
for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 27 JAN 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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**Inclosure 1 Task Organization to Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st
Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)**

1-11 Inf 1-61 Inf (Mech) 1-77 Armor
A/k-12 Cav

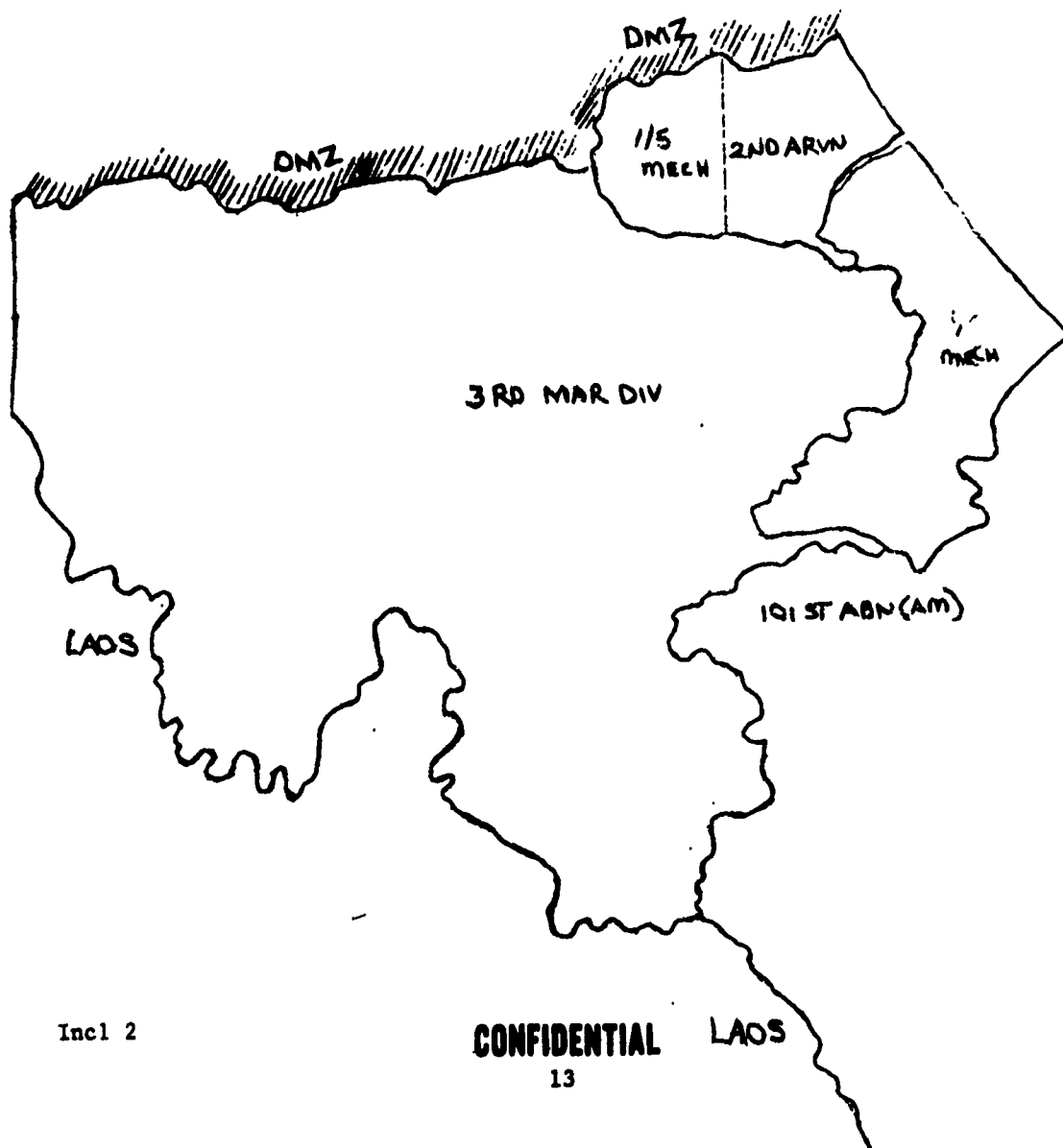
3-5 Cav
C/2-34 Armor

Bde Control
HHC, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Main)
5-4 Arty
P/75th Ranger
A/7th Engr
75th Supt Bn
407 RRD
517 MID
86th Chem Det
43d Inf Plat (Scout Dog)
48th PI Det

This task organization reflects the permanent O2COM/attachment relationships within the Brigade. Forces are tailored by cross attachment on a mission type basis.

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Inclosure 2 to Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

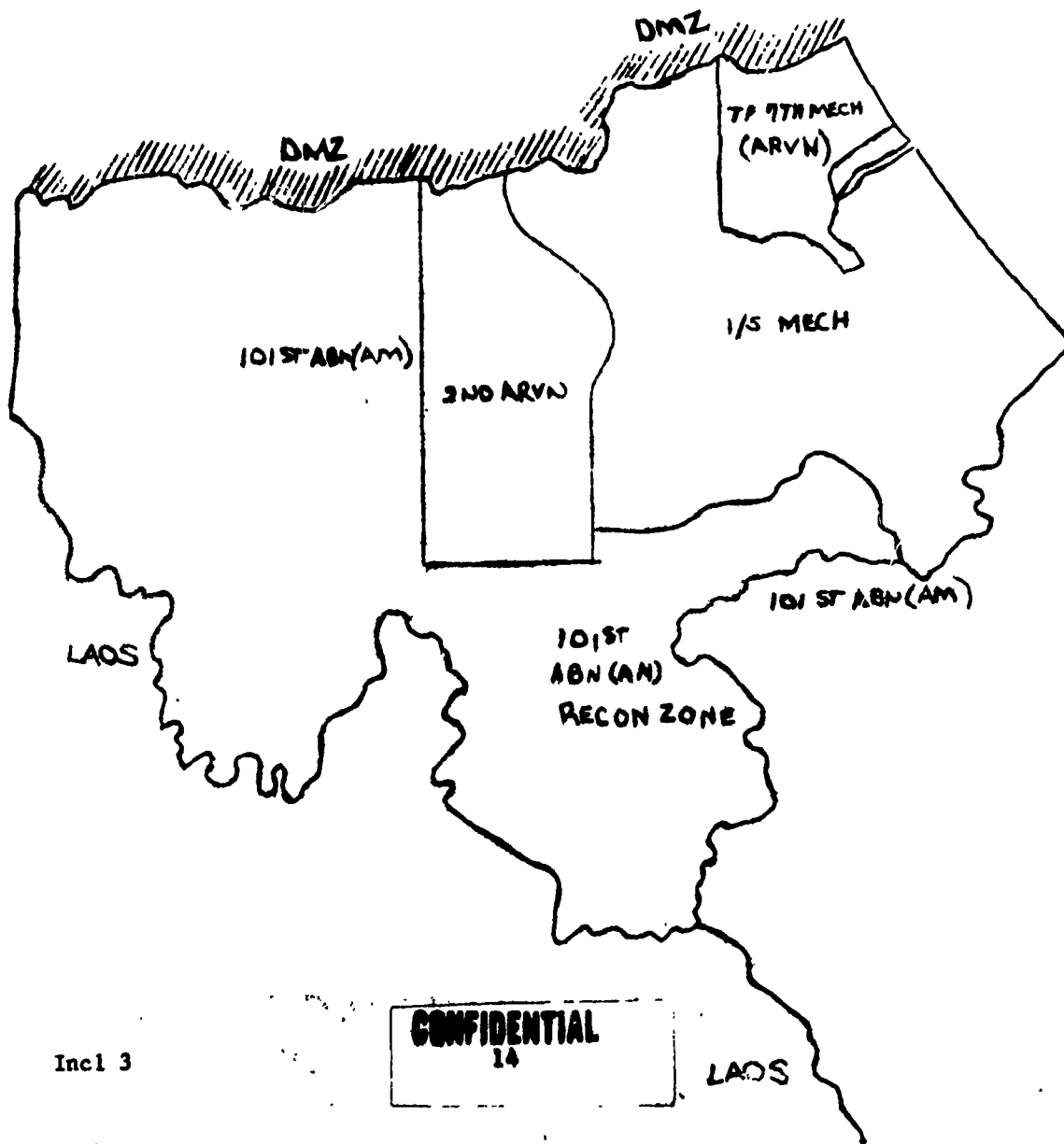


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Inclosure 3 to Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSTOR-65 (R2)



Incl 3

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Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech)		
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CG, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division		
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